Import of goods

†4985. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of goods imported year-wise during the last three years together with the foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the steps taken to produce and manufacture the goods imported into the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) There are around 10,400 tariff lines and the unit of measurement of quantity is not the same for all these lines. However, the quantities of various items imported during last three years are available in the publication entitled 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol-II (Imports)' brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, copies of which are made available in the Parliament library.

The foreign exchange incurred on these items during last three years is as under:

Year	Value (Rs. crore)
1999-2000	215528.53
2000-2001	230872.76
2001-2002 (P)	241478.16

P = Provisional figures.

(b) and (c) The quantitative restrictions on imports of various items have been removed from time to time as part of economic reforms, to meet domestic shortages and also in accordance with our international commitments. Removal of QRs over the years has not had any significant impact on the average rate of growth of imports so far. Efforts have also been made to provide a level playing field to domestic producers by calibrating the duty structure, which has been revised as and when considered necessary. In addition, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, regulations, procedures & technical standards applicable to the domestic products.

Most of our imports comprise raw materials, essential items, capital goods and petroleum crude. It is neither possible nor economically feasible to produce all our requirements within the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.